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Obama to get reelection gift -- a staggering 2.2 lbs. truffle



Photo shows Acqualagna's mayor Andrea Pierotti (R) holding in his hands a 1,012 kgs white truffle together with the head of Eataly Brno. The truffle, a rare subterranean mushroom prized in haute cuisine, is to be delivered to the United States on November 18 and Acqualagna officials said they hoped Obama would show up in person to pick up his gift.



New Labor Law will protect our children

ORANJESTAD -- Several proposals for labor law changes have been submitted to Parliament this week.

These new laws and changes in the laws were presented to Parliament and discussed in some detail the past week.

According to the Minister of Labor, all these laws are to benefit the community and employees in our community. But, they will also benefit employers in new and pleasant ways.

With respect to children, it has been noted that there are cases where 15 year olds are being permitted to work. These, the government contends must be protected. Hence, the new laws have taken our children into consideration and will apply specifically to children. As of 2013, it will be prohibited for children under 16 to work during late hours of the night, and to



A child harvests coffee beans in the department of El Paraíso, 120km east of Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

do dangerous work, work in the hotels where strong drink is being served, and to work for more than 12 hours per week. Children will not be permitted to work between the hours of 7:00pm to 7:00am.

The government has assured us that they will take the necessary steps to enforce

these laws. In cases where companies fail to honor these laws they will receive stiff sanctions.

The laws regarding child employment will be to safeguard the health and security of our children and young people.

US says new Syria body 'a legitimate representative'

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The United States said yesterday the newly formed opposition National Coalition was "a legitimate representative" of the Syrian people, but stopped short of recognizing it as a government-in-exile.

"We now have a structure in place that can prepare for a political transition, but... we're looking for it to still establish the types of technical committees that will allow us to make sure our assistance gets to the right places," State Department deputy spokesman Mark Toner said.

"We do think this is a legitimate representative of the Syrian people, that it does reflect the Syrian people... that diverse group of Syrian people," he told journalists.

The diverse forces involved in the Syrian coalition agreed on Sunday to unify their fighting forces under a supreme

military council and set up a national judicial commission for rebel-held areas in Syria.

The move which came after talks in Doha came after Washington pushed the Syrian National Council to broaden its membership, saying it was not representative of all the groups fighting to topple President

Bashar al-Assad.

"We look forward, obviously, to supporting the national coalition as it charts a course for the end of Assad's bloody rule, and marks the start, we believe, of a peaceful, just and democratic future for the people of Syria," Toner said.



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Abraham de Veer School wins "Entrepreneur of the Future" project!



ORANJESTAD -- On Monday afternoon the winners of the "Entrepreneur of the Future" project were announced. The 18 different teams from various schools around the island, worked diligently to present a business plan. From the 18 presentations only the three best plans were to be chosen.

The primary objective of the project was to give students enough information so that they could start up a business and all that is involved in getting a business going. The students had to come up with their own business plan. A total of 47 teams registered and at the end only 18 teams presented a

plan.

A jury of experts analyzed the proposals and chose three which met the final evaluations. The three finalists were, "One Happy Mangos," from Colegio Arubano, "Save Water N.V." from Abraham de Veer School, and "Aruboonchi" by EPB Hato.

"One Happy Mangos" presented a very colorful booth and a rather exotic product made from mangoes, sea salt or sour, with the possibility for adding different toppings.

Save Water NV presented a solution for putting a regulator unto a tube of water at home to save water.

Continued on page 3

TODAY is World Diabetes Day

ORANJESTAD -- In connection with "World Diabetes Day," today, November 14th, the Instituto Biba Saludabel y Activo (IBISA) is joining forces in order to make the Aruban community aware of the need to take care of our health and to prevent getting the chronic disease of diabetes. Diabetes knows no age, sex, religion or status. This disease can attack anyone who fails to care good care of their health.

There are things that are not in our control, for example, our genetic heritage. But what we can control is what type of lifestyle we will lead; we can choose to live healthy.

Two factors which have an influence on our chances for getting diabetes are:

1. Maintain a healthy diet, and
2. Do physical exercise for at least 30 minutes daily

Here are 5 tips for eating healthy:

1. Eat a varied meal: fruits and vegetables, types of meat and grain. Also, change the way we prepare our foods.
2. Eat plenty fruits and vegetables: Eat whole wheat bread, drink sufficient water – 7 to 8 glasses a day, coffee or thee but without sugar
3. Use less salt, sugar and alcohol
4. Eat less fat and more

fish

5. Eat a reasonable size plate of healthy food: don't over eat.

Along with a healthy meal and balanced diet, you need to do some sort of physical exercise every day for at least 30 minutes.

This should include:

1. Activities such as walking with your dog, washing a car, park at a distance which will force you to walk, get up from your chair at work and walk about, even while sitting or lying down you can do some form of exercise.
2. Do intensive movement: practice a sport for about 3 to 5 times a week, like jogging, biking, zumba, tennis, volley, raking your yard.

3. Do flexibility or strength training, like lifting weights, stretching, yoga or tai chi.

To stay healthy you must do some kind of physical activity at least 30 minutes daily.

Someone wanting to loose weight has to do at least 60 minutes of physical exercise every day.

Today, November 14th, "World Diabetes Day," the Fundacion Diabetes Aruba is organizing a 5K walk as an awareness on the day. The walk will leave the Linear Park at 5:30pm. Participants must contribute Afls.10 to receive a lovely T-Shirt of "Dushi Control'e" for your participation in the walk.

IBISA is inviting the entire Aruban community to come out and join in the walk. Buy your T-Shirt and participate as we make people aware of Diabetes and to begin leading a healthy lifestyle.

Found driver's license twist in US sex saga

WASHINGTON (AFP) - A driver's license belonging to the woman at the center of the sex scandal engulfing Washington, Paula Broadwell, has been found by a jogger in a park in the capital, a spokesman said yesterday.

Broadwell's license was discovered in Rock Creek Park, which cuts a swathe through central Washington and is hugely popular with runners, and handed it over on

Sunday to the authorities.

"It was found recently and it is in our possession. It was turned in on the 11th," Lieutenant Bill Kellogg of the Maryland National Capital Park Police told AFP.

"We have not heard from Broadwell at all," Kellogg said, adding that if Broadwell did not contact the park authorities within 90 days, her license would be sent back to her current home state of North Carolina.

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“Entrepreneur of the Future” project!

Continued from page 2

The “Aruboonchi” company presented a stew of beans of Aruba, which was a rather delicious dish.

The judges focused on originality, and creativity, as well as on the business knowledge demonstrated. After asking many questions, they chose the winner.

First price went to Save Water NV by Abraham de Veer School. Both youngsters received an iPad as gift from Aruba Bank and a gift from Write Here.

Second prize went to One Happy Mangoes by Colegio Arubano. Here both students



also received an iPad from Aruba Bank.

The third place winner went to “Aruboonchi” by EPB-Hato. Both participants won a Smart Phone given by SETAR N.V.

It was fantastic to see the interest from so many for this project by our youth. How our young people put in so much time and effort and dedication to the project is simply to be applauded.

According to Minister Winklaar-Hooyboer...“with this kind of initiative by our young people, we must say that Aruba’s economy is in good hands.”



Oil product prices lowers today

ORANJESTAD – The Ministry of Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs announces to the general public that as of today, Wednesday, November 14, 2012, there will be changes in different oil product prices.



- The new price for unleaded-premium gas will be 223.0 cent per liter, a decrease of 11.9 cent per liter
- The new price for diesel LS will be 215.7 cent per liter, a decrease of 2.4 cent

per liter.

- The new price for kerosin will be 207.1 cent per liter, a decrease of 4.6 cent per liter

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Premiere issue of Kico ta Kico Magazine showcases Aruba's first Bienal di Arte



Library Director Astrid Britten and Alice van Romondt

"Kico ta kico?" - literally translated as "What is what?" - is a common greeting among islanders, particularly teenagers, and so was selected as the name of a new magazine from Charuba publishing, aimed at illuminating art and culture and stimulating interest among island youth.

The debut issue was unveiled at Aruba's newly remodeled main library in Oranjestad. The entire publication is dedicated to the concept of art biennials, and honors the artists participating in Aruba's first such event, taking place over the past year as a series of exhibitions.

Aruba's Minister of Eco-

nomie Affairs, Social Affairs and Culture, Michelle Hooyboer-Winklaar was proud to present each of the showcased artists with a personal copy of the magazine, as well as Library Director Astrid Britten. The attractive magazine is highly graphical, with sharp, trendy layout, to appeal to younger readers. Articles are in Dutch and Papiamentu.

Participating artists honored, with their work and careers outlined in the first issue, are Ryan Oduber, Osaira Muyale, Nelson Gonzalez, Ciro Abath, Renwick Heronimo, Alida Martinez, Irene Peterson, Glenda Heyliger, and Stan Kuiperi. Aruba's Arte Bus, bringing classes to

communities, and the recently established Aruba branch of the renowned Gerrit Rietveld Art Academy of Holland, offering island youth opportunities for self-expression and developing their talents, are showcased in this premiere issue. Aruba's Biennial exhibits were innovative; they included a show in Washington, D.C. and the conversion of space in the Aruba Free Zone on the western outskirts of Oranjestad. This new venue is open to the public Monday through Saturday, from 9:00 AM until 5:00 PM.

The magazine was enabled by financing from the Prins Bernhard Cultuurfonds. Writing, graphics and photography were done by Annefleur Siebinga, Zahira Zaandam, Julienne Paskel, Ryan Oduber, Joost Howard and the publication was facilitated by Alice van Romondt. They were also honored on Monday, November 12, at the impromptu ceremony.

The unveiling of Kico Ta Kico is accompanied by and exhibit in the lobby of the national library, which will continue through December 21st. The magazine will be freely distributed to library visitors.

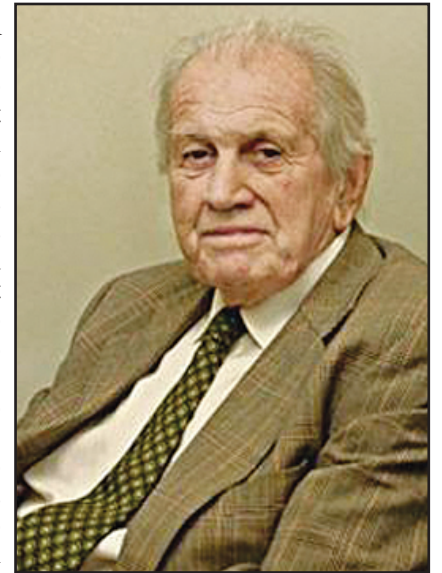
Rosalie Klein



Honored artists

Dutch call to investigate Crown Princess's father

THE HAGUE -- A Dutch lawyer has renewed her call for an investigation into the past of Argentinian politician Jorge Zorreguieta, the father of Dutch Princess Máxima. Human rights lawyer Liesbeth Zegveld lodged a complaint against the princess's father for his alleged involvement in the disappearance of thousands of people when he was a member of the Argentinian junta. Princess Máxima is the 41-year-old wife of Dutch Crown Prince Willem-Alexander.



Jorge Zorreguieta

The issue was brought back into the limelight by statements made to Dutch reporter Arnold Karskens by surviving relatives of the disappeared, which were televised on Monday.

Last year Ms Zegveld took the case to court on behalf of relatives of Samuel Leonardo Slutzky, who disappeared in Argentina in 1977. The relatives specifically accused Zorreguieta of involvement in thousands of disappearances which took place between 1976 and 1981 during the rule of President Jorge Videla.

The Dutch public prose-

cutor said that there was insufficient evidence of Zorreguieta's personal involvement in the disappearances, having found that he did not give directions to people working for the junta who made people disappear. The prosecutor added that Zorreguieta did not refuse to share any information he had about the disappearances.

An earlier case was brought against Zorreguieta in the Netherlands in 2001. That was thrown out because the prosecutor's office and the court judged that the Netherlands had no jurisdiction in the case.

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The Schmautz Family Aruba to host world championship Tae Kwon Do competitions Nov 22-25



Recently, the Aruba Tourism Authority honored a very loyal and friendly family, as Distinguished Visitors and Ambassadors of Goodwill of Aruba.

The symbolic honorary titles are presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10 to 19 and 20 or more consecutive years.

The honorees are the Schmautz family: Mr. Darrin and Mrs. Lauren Schmautz received the Ambassador of Goodwill of Aruba certificate

and their sons Justin and Connor Schmautz received the Distinguished Visitor of Aruba certificates

The Schmautz family love Aruba very much, the beautiful weather, family atmosphere and also the friendly people of the Divi Village especially Gloria Devoe

The certificates were presented to them by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Ms. Gloria Devoe and Mr. Gerrit Griffith GM of the Aruba Divi Village.

President of the Aruba Tae Kwon Do Association, Jose "Chaco" Cornelio and Vice President of Art Bo, Eric Barry, welcomed media to announce that for the first time, the island will simultaneously host two international Tae Kwon Do Championship matches. The third WTF World Para-Tae Kwon Do Championships and the WTF World Cup Tae Kwon Do Team Championships, beginning on Thursday, November 22, with the final matches taking place on Sunday, November 25.

Organizers expect over 310 participants, a number of them national champions. Competitors from the last two Olympics will be on the roster, and referees who presided over the Tae Kwon Do matches at the Olympic World Games in London this past summer. Competitors from 26 nations, including Iran, Korea, Mongolia, Nepal, Azerbaijan, Croatia, Finland, France, Greece, Russia, Spain, the United Kingdom, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica, Guatemala, USA, Brazil, China, Colombia, Egypt, Chinese Taipei, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, and the



Event organizers

Dominican Republic have confirmed their participation in the events.

All matches will be conducted at the Betico Croes Sport Center in Santa Cruz, beginning at 9:00 am with the World Para-Tae Kwon Do Championships on November 22. Awards will be presented that evening.

The WTF World Cup 2012 preliminary matches will begin the next day; Quarter, semi and final matches will take place on Sunday, the 25th. Prior to actual events, Aruba is hosting a WTF Workshop for

Para-Tae Kwon Do and Council meetings of the World Tae Kwon Do Federation.

Events will be broadcast via live streaming on the Internet. Advanced tickets for the matches are on sale at Wong Sheung Wong restaurant in Oranjestad for \$10 per day, and at the door. Promoters promise many exciting surprises for spectators, including three major league baseball players from the New York Yankees, among them the legendary Derek Jeter, who will greet fans and give autographs.

Rosalie Klein



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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Anti-virus legend McAfee wanted for murder in Belize

BELIZE CITY (AFP) - John McAfee, founder of the eponymous anti-virus company, is on the run for killing another US citizen in a resort town, Belizean police said yesterday.

Police raided McAfee's mansion on Ambergris Caye, an island off the northeastern coast of Belize, late Sunday to question him about the murder of American Gregory Faull. But McAfee was nowhere to be found, said the head of the country's anti-organized crime brigade, Marco Vidal. He told reporters that McAfee was wanted "for homicide."

But McAfee told the US magazine Wired that he was in fact hiding on the property at the time, burying himself in the sand with a cardboard box over his head in order to breathe.

"It was extraordinarily uncomfortable," he said. "But they will kill me if they find me."

Vidal's officers searched McAfee's mansion several months ago looking for weapons and drugs, and detained him for several hours.

McAfee claims he was arrested at the time because he refused to make a donation to a local politician's campaign.

Florida native Faull, 52, was found dead at his home by his housekeeper Sunday morning.

At the crime scene, investigators found a 9mm shell, "consistent with the wound in the back of Faull's neck," said National Security Ministry spokesman Rafael Martinez.

A police report said there were no signs of a break-in, and that a laptop and cell phone were missing.

Residents of the island, known for scuba diving, tropical fishing and its American expatriate community, told the website Gizmodo that Faull and McAfee had a recent fallout.

According to Gizmodo,

which quoted locals speaking on condition of anonymity, McAfee had displayed increasingly erratic behavior and was estranged from the expatriate community. Gizmodo also reported that McAfee had been experimenting with psychoactive drugs.

Asked about the shooting of his neighbor, McAfee told Wired that he knew "nothing" other than Faull had been shot. The anti-virus pioneer even said he was worried that Faull's killers had actually been looking for him.

"Under no circumstances am I going to willingly talk to the police in this country," he told Wired. "You can say I'm paranoid about it but they will kill me, there is no question. They've been trying to get me for months. They want to silence me. I am not well liked by the prime minister. I am just a thorn in everybody's side."

McAfee has been living in Belize, a former British colony, for the past four years. The 67-year-old made millions when he sold his anti-virus software company in the early 1990s.

Record vote for UN resolution against Cuba embargo

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) - A record 188 countries voted yesterday for an annual UN General Assembly resolution condemning the five-decade old US embargo against Cuba.

The almost-ritual UN debate saw Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez lash out at what he called "the inhuman, failed and anachronistic policy of 11 successive US administrations" since the full embargo was imposed in 1962.

The United States reaffirmed that while \$2 billion in remittances had been sent to the Communist-ruled island by Cuban Americans in 2011, it would only ease the embargo when Cuba carries out major social and economic changes.

The vote in favor rose from 186 for the 20th anniversary resolution last year. This time the United States, Israel and Palau opposed the resolution while the Marshall Islands and Micronesia abstained.

Russia, China, Organization of Islamic Cooperation member states and the Non-Aligned movement all spoke out against the embargo.

US diplomat Ronald Godard said the Cuban-proposed resolution seeks to "identify an external scapegoat for the island's economic problems."

He highlighted the case of an American Alan Gross, imprisoned in Cuba since 2009 for taking computers and satellite phones for the island's small Jewish community. Cuba has said Gross was a spy.

Godard told the assembly that politically motivated short-term detentions this year had already surpassed the 4,000 recorded in 2011.



Heavy equipment operator Bill Unger salvages photos from a mass dump of household possessions in the Midland Beach area of the Staten Island borough of New York City. Unger has been helping to remove Hurricane Sandy debris for the city. He said he's been collecting the photos and then taking them to his daughter, who is posting them on Facebook for neighborhood residents to find online and later collect. (AFP PHOTO)

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Obama backs Allen over Petraeus sex scandal

WASHINGTON (AFP) - President Barack Obama gave his backing to the commander of US forces in Afghanistan yesterday after the top general was dragged into the sex scandal that brought down CIA director David Petraeus.

General John Allen was placed under investigation after FBI agents probing email threats sent by Petraeus' mistress stumbled upon a vast trove of "flirtatious" messages Allen sent to another woman at the heart of the scandal.

According to a senior Pentagon official, Allen denies any sexual liaison with the woman, 37-year-old Tampa socialite Jill Kelley, but the "sheer volume" of correspondence could be found to amount to "conduct unbecoming an officer."

Due to face lawmakers this week for a hearing to confirm his promotion to the post of NATO's supreme commander in Europe, Allen will now return to Kabul and remain in charge in Afghanistan until the investigation is over.

"I can tell you that the president thinks very highly of General Allen and of his service to his country, as well as the job he has done in Afghanistan," White House spokesman Jay Carney told reporters.

"He has faith in General Allen," he added, referring reporters' questions on the inquiries into both Allen and Petraeus to the Pentagon, the FBI and the Justice Department.

Washington was already reeling from Petraeus' shock resignation when it learned that Allen -- who served with him in Iraq and at US Central Command in Tampa, Florida -- had also been caught up in the scandal.

Petraeus resigned last week when it became clear that his affair with married 40-year-old military reservist Paul Broadwell, a military academic who wrote a fawning biography of the general, would become public.

FBI agents stumbled on the liaison after a complaint from Kelley -- a married Tampa woman and close friend of both Petraeus and Allen -- who told a federal agent that she had re-

ceived threatening emails.

Investigators traced the mails to Broadwell's account and discovered that she had been in a relationship with Petraeus, despite both being married.

The threatening emails she had sent to Kelley -- who told investigators she did not know Broadwell -- suggest the biographer was jealous of the socialite's rapport with the generals at US Central Command in Florida.

In one, according to the Wall Street Journal, Broadwell claimed she had seen Kelley touching "him" provocatively under the table. It is not clear who "him" was.

It emerged yesterday that the agents had also discovered that Allen had sent a huge number of mails to Kelley, triggering an investigation into whether he had broken the law or any military regulations during the friendship.

In all, the FBI is investigating between 20,000 to 30,000 pages of Allen's correspondence, a Pentagon official said.

The Washington Post, citing a senior military official close to Allen, reported that the correspondence included 200 to 300 emails between Kelley and the general.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation itself has also come under scrutiny.

On Tuesday, the Wall Street Journal reported that the FBI agent Kelley contacted about the threatening emails, a personal acquaintance of hers, brought the matter to the attention of Republican lawmakers.

The agent apparently believed the bureau was not moving aggressively enough with the investigation, suspecting that his superiors were keen to protect the Democratic president from the fallout.

FBI supervisors had earlier barred the agent from any involvement in the case after he became "obsessed" with the matter, the Journal said.

It quoted one official as saying the agent had sent shirtless photos to Kelley well before the email investigation had begun, and said he is currently under investigation by the internal affairs arm of the FBI.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Colombia peace talks delayed until next week

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The Colombian government and the leftist FARC guerrilla group announced yesterday a delay in the start of full-fledged peace talks to discuss incorporating civil society groups in the process.

In a joint statement, the two sides said the delay until next Monday was to work out details for the participation of civilian representatives in the talks, which were to have begun on Thursday.

Negotiators will be taking up a five-point agenda consisting of land issues, political participation, drug trafficking, disarmament and victims.

A role in the negotiations for civil society groups had been ruled out until now, and it was not clear how they would figure in the process.

Launched at a symbolic meeting in Norway last month, the negotiations are the first in a decade between the government and the FARC aimed at ending Latin America's longest running insurgency. Three pre-

vious attempts to make peace failed.

No ceasefire has been declared as part of the negotiations, and the hostilities have continued to claim lives as two sides prepare for the talks.

The FARC has some 9,200 fighters under arms, according to Colombian defense ministry estimates. But the group, which was founded in 1964, has been dealt a series of setbacks in recent years that have resulted in the death or capture of key leaders and left it much diminished from its peak strength.

Besides the FARC, Colombian authorities also are at war with the National Liberation Army, or ELN by its Spanish acronym, a smaller guerrilla group that said Monday it also was prepared to take part in a peace process.

It proposed a bilateral ceasefire while a dialogue is underway with the government, saying a "non-confrontational atmosphere" could create conditions for greater civic involvement in the process.

Terror suspect Abu Qatada released from British jail

LONDON (AFP) - British authorities reluctantly released terror suspect Abu Qatada on bail yesterday after judges ruled that the radical cleric dubbed Osama bin Laden's right-hand man in Europe should not be extradited to Jordan.

The Islamist preacher smiled slightly as he was driven out of the high-security Long Lartin prison in central England in the back of a black minibus. Several hours later, a small group of protesters gathered outside his house in north-west London and chanted slogans calling for his deportation, as the father-of-five arrived at his modest home.

The court ruling on Mon-

day was a severe blow for the British government, which has kept the preacher in custody for most of the last 10 years and repeatedly tried to send him to Jordan.

Abu Qatada was convicted in absentia in Jordan in 1998 for involvement in terror attacks, but British judges accepted his argument that evidence obtained by torture might be used against him in a retrial.

He will be under a curfew 16 hours a day but can leave his home between 8:00 am and 4:00 pm. He will have to wear an electronic tag and restrictions will be placed on who he meets.

Facing bankruptcy, Acapulco urges rescue

MEXICO CITY (AFP) - The mayor of Acapulco, one of Mexico's top tourist spots, declared the beach resort in "technical bankruptcy" yesterday and called on the federal government to "come to the rescue."

Mayor Luis Walton, who took office two months ago,

said the city government was unable to pay a debt of more than \$170 million.

"We are in a state of technical bankruptcy," the leftist mayor said accusing the previous administration of inflating public wages and signing contracts worth millions that cannot be paid.

The federal government, he added, must "come to the rescue of Acapulco."

The former mayor, Manuel Anorve, rejected the charges but he acknowledged that the number of public workers rose from 7,920 to 8,168, with the police force accounting for the bulk of this increase.



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HEALTH & LIVING

Flu, fever in pregnancy tied to autism risk - study

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Women who had the flu or ran a fever for more than a week during their pregnancy face a greater risk of having a child with an autism spectrum disorder, Danish researchers said Monday.

The study was based on a survey of mothers of nearly 97,000 children aged eight to 14 and born between 1997 and 2003 in Denmark. Only one percent (976) of the children were diagnosed with autism.

Researchers said that mild and common respiratory, sinus, urinary tract or genital infections, as well as feverish episodes or use of antibiotics in mothers during pregnancy were not a strong risk factor for autism.

But children whose mothers reported experiencing a bout of influenza during pregnancy had twice the risk of being diagnosed with autism, while those whose mothers had a fever lasting more than seven days before

gestational week 32 were three times more likely to be diagnosed with the disorder.

Pregnant women have a weakened immune system during the nine months of gestation.

The study, published in the US journal Pediatrics, also noted a small increase in the risk of autism after the mother used different antibiotics during the pregnancy.

However, the researchers stressed that "we do not know whether the antibiotic treatment itself caused the observed association or whether the antibiotic use functioned as a proxy variable for an underlying disease."

They also stressed that the link between fever during pregnancy and autism could be a "coincidental finding," and required further study.

Given the link found between autism and fever or the flu during pregnancy, the study's authors recommended that pregnant women get a flu shot.

Premature births fall to 10-year low in US

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The rate of premature births in the United States fell by 11.7 percent in 2011 to the lowest level in a decade, a study published Tuesday said.

"These results demonstrate that many premature births can be prevented with the right policies and bold leadership," said Jennifer Howse, president of the March of Dimes, which released the study.

"We must implement proven interventions and accelerate our investment in new research to prevent preterm birth so one day

every baby will get a healthy start in life," she said.

She said the progress, besides resulting in better health for newborns, should translate into about \$3 billion in savings in medical care and other costs to society.

The rate of premature births peaked in 2006 in the United States after rising over the previous 20 years, according to the National Center for Health Statistics.

The rate has fallen for five consecutive years, with the biggest declines seen in babies born between 34 and 36 weeks of gestation.

Yes: Walking is good for you!

Walking prevents type 2 diabetes. The Diabetes Prevention Program showed that walking 150 minutes per week and losing just 7% of your body weight (12-15 pounds) can reduce your risk of diabetes by 58%.

Walking strengthens your heart if you're male. In one study, mortality rates among retired men who walked less than one mile per day were nearly twice that among those who walked more than two miles per day.

Walking strengthens your heart if you're female. Women in the Nurse's Health Study (72,488 female nurses) who walked three hours or more per week reduced their risk of a heart attack or other coronary event by 35% compared with women who did



not walk.

Walking is good for your brain. In a study on walking and cognitive function, researchers found that women who walked the equivalent of an easy pace at least 1.5

hours per week had significantly better cognitive function and less cognitive decline than women who walked less than 40 minutes per week. Think about that!

Walking is good for your bones. Research shows that postmenopausal women who walk approximately one mile each day have higher whole-body bone density than women who walk shorter distances, and walking is also effective in slowing the rate of bone loss from the legs.

Walking helps alleviate symptoms of depression. Walking for 30 minutes, three to five times per week for 12 weeks reduced symptoms of depression as measured with a standard depression questionnaire by 47%.

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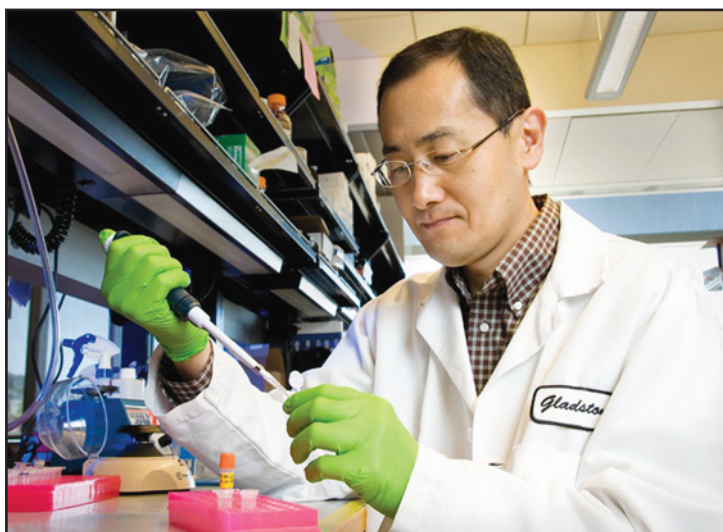
Ethics debate unstilled by stemcell success: Nobel laureate - Interview

PARIS (AFP) - Newly-crowned Nobel laureate Shinya Yamanaka on Monday cautioned that stem cells could still spur sharp debate, despite his achievement in creating cells that are not derived from embryos.

The Japanese scientist was interviewed on a trip to Paris after co-winning the 2012 Nobel Prize for Medicine last month alongside Britain's John Gurdon.

Yamanaka was lauded for "reprogramming" mature cells so that they return to a versatile primitive state, called stem cells.

Researchers hope that stem cells may one day pro-



Shinya Yamanaka in his lab

vide lab-grown tissue to replenish organs damaged by accident or disease.

Only the very first steps have been taken along this road, but the mission has been boosted by Yamanaka's work, for it implies that stem cells culled from embryos -- until now the most potent but

also a highly controversial source -- may no longer be needed.

But Yamanaka warned that his induced pluripotent stem cells (iPS) are unlikely to escape a storm touching on the creation of life.

"Now we can avoid the use of human embryos, so it's

good. However, we are facing new ethical issues," he told AFP.

The question, he said, lies with the creation of so-called germ cells -- cells that give rise to sperm or eggs.

"Can we make sperm from blood and can we fertilise these oocytes (eggs)?" he asked. "We really need discussion in society about how much we can do about this new technology."

Yamanaka said scientists in Kobe had already applied to the Japanese authorities for permission to carry out the world's first iPS trial on humans, using cells on patients suffering from retinal disease.

And, he said, Japan was pushing ahead with a stem cell bank, which was approved in July.

"In theory, we can make iPS cells from each patient. But it would be very expensive and take six months to prepare the cells from each patient. So in reality, we cannot do that," he said.

A stem cell bank would be a good alternative, said Yamanaka.

The idea is to choose

donors whose DNA profile is least likely to trigger rejection by a patient's immune system.

"We may be able to cover many patients by having only a handful of iPS stock, that's our plan," he said. "By our estimations, we identified 140 such specific donors, (and with these) we could cover up to 90 percent of the whole population."

Some scientists have been cautious about iPS technology, fearing that reprogramming errors as an adult cell is rewound to its infant state, using a batch of introduced genes, could cause tumours.

Yamanaka, 50, carried out his groundbreaking work in 2007, but was quick to pay tribute to Gurdon, who laid the conceptual foundations in 1962.

In 2007, "We thought maybe we will win the Nobel prize in the future if it goes" to clinical trials, he said.

"So we did not expect (it) at this time because it was too early. But we were awarded because of Sir John Gurdon and his discovery 50 years ago... Because of him I was very lucky to be awarded."

Online marketplace eBay courts China shoppers

SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) - Leading Internet marketplace eBay this week took aim at China with the launch of a website aimed at enticing fashion-conscious shoppers there with "the very best" of its offerings.

The California-based firm teamed with Chinese luxury online retailer Xiu.com to launch a localized eBay Style website at ebay.xiu.com.

"Our long-term vision is to connect Chinese consumers to global products and brands that they want and love in a seamless and safe way," eBay said in a release.

"By partnering with Xiu.com we are able to surface our best inventory to Chi-

nese consumers, while providing a simple and easy shopping experience."

Offerings will include thousands of brands of clothing, handbags, beauty products and more, with Xiu handling sales, deliveries and customer service, according to the companies.

"We believe that in the future Chinese consumers will use eBay as a passport to global fashion styles, especially for leading women's brands and accessories, and menswear," said eBay vice president Melanie Tan.

Sales to shoppers in China navigating eBay in English have increased 40 percent in the past year, according to Tan.

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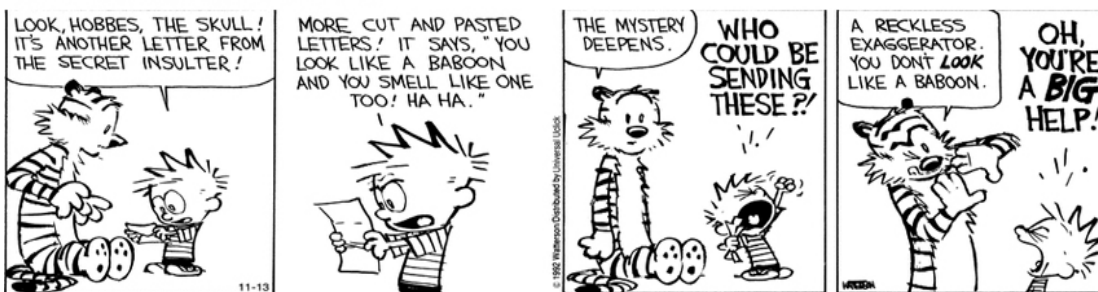
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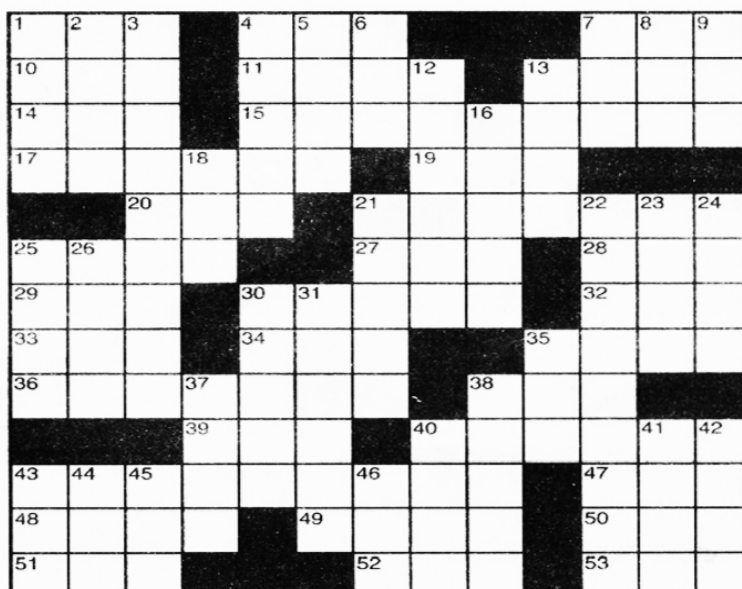
LOOK, UP IN THE SKY!

ACROSS

1. Pacino et al.
4. "___ Cape Cod"
7. Wilbur, in "Charlotte's Web"
10. Tibetan beast
11. Dues
13. Lose luster
14. Bridge expert
15. Airman with the right stuff
17. More gloomy
19. Departure's opp.
20. Process suffix
21. Environmental conditions
25. Disreputable bar
27. Wielded a baton
28. Scouring pad brand
29. "___ to Freedom" (Schiller)
30. Instruction to a tot
32. Nam time
33. Poet's "eternally"
34. Daughter of Hyperion
35. Scots Gaelic
36. Feels insulted
38. Jersey greeting
39. Itinerary: abbr.
40. Fastened
43. Performer on high

DOWN

47. Trouble
48. Use a mangle
49. "M*A*S*H" Emmy winner
50. Game based on crazy eights
51. Peggy of a Dylan song
52. Wartime agcy.
53. Benzene source
6. Composer Josquin ___
7. Damon, to Pythias
8. Altar utterance
9. TV's "___ Smart"
12. Cornier
13. Lawyer's company
16. Group of lions
18. Stag hunter?
21. Caliber
22. NASA figure
23. Stubbled spots
24. Toward the rising sun, in Cancun
25. Active one
26. Pierre's notion
30. Wagnerian heroine
31. Monopoly purchases
35. Long, long period
37. Ireland, poetically
38. Catchers' wear
40. Greek letters
41. Ferber or Best
42. Peephole locale
43. First ___
44. Historic period
45. Scheider or Rogers
46. ___ Jima, Japan



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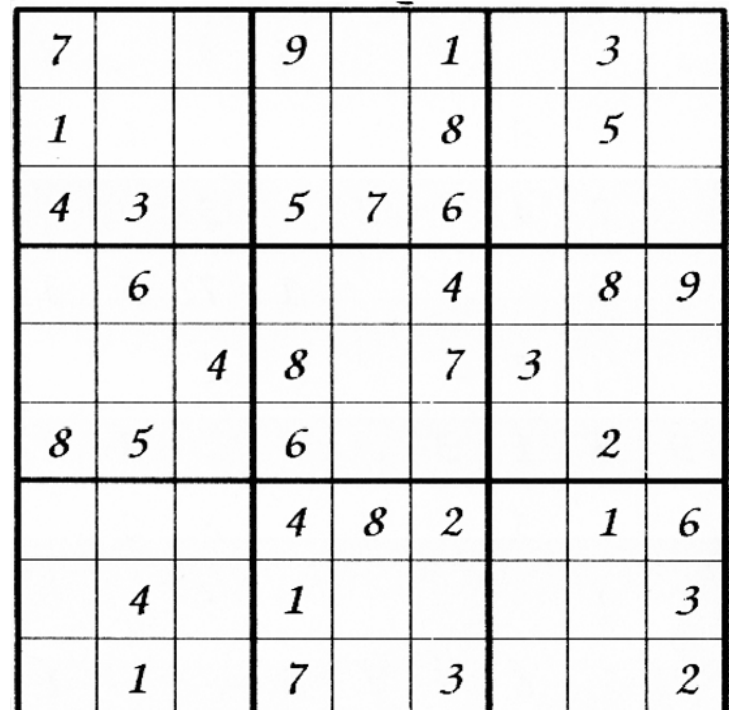
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

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1	8	5	9	1	6	7	2	4
4	3	2	8	7	5	6	1	9
1	7	6	5	9	2	8	4	3
5	9	2	1	8	7	3	6	4
6	8	7	5	2	1	9	4	3
8	6	1	9	2	5	7	3	4
4	5	2	8	7	9	6	1	3
2	1	9	1	2	6	5	8	7

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A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



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Finance

Dutch step in to avert ICC rent crisis

THE HAGUE (AFP) - The Dutch government agreed yesterday to partially foot the bill for the International Criminal Court's rent for the next three years, a day before its member states hold tough budget talks.

The announcement by the court's Assembly of States Parties (ASP) president Tiina Intelmann comes amid growing concern over the world war crimes court's funding, hit hard by donor nations' reluctance to give more money because of the financial crisis.

Intermann told journalists she received a letter from incoming Dutch Foreign Minister Frans Timmermans.

"This (Tuesday) morning I received a letter... indicating that the Netherlands as a host state will be able to partially cover the cost of the rent," she said at the ICC's current temporary headquarters in one of The Hague's eastern suburbs.

Nicknamed "The Arc" because of its distinctive architecture, the current building was initially provided by the Netherlands, which has also paid six million euros (\$7.6 million) in yearly rent over the last decade.

But this rental agreement ended in July. The Netherlands shortly afterwards announced it would extend rental payments -- but only until the end of the year.

Intermann however said the Netherlands now would give "three million euros a year up to the total sum of nine million euros until 2015 when the court's permanent premises will be ready."

Built on a site formerly hosting Dutch military barracks a few kilometres away, the new ICC building will initially cost an estimated 190 million euros.

The 121 states that make up the court's umbrella body, ASP, as well as NGOs will meet today in The Hague to discuss a number of key issues impacting the court.

These include tough talks on its continued funding and its proposed budget and the election of a chief deputy prosecutor to replace Gambia's Fatou Bensouda, who recently took over as the ICC's new chief prosecutor.

The issue of rent will also "be discussed by states parties to see if they are able to carry the rest of the cost," Intelmann said.

Anti-austerity strikes, protests engulfs Europe

MADRID (AFP) - A wave of anti-austerity anger breaks across Europe today, with general strikes in Spain and Portugal spearheading a day of protest that will ground more than 700 flights.

Growing angst over public spending cuts and tax increases is being exposed in particular in debt-struck eurozone economies already suffering high unemployment and recession.

Clashes between riot police and protesters have broken out

US budget deficit jumps 22% in October

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The US budget deficit rose 22 percent in October from a year ago, to \$120.0 billion, as spending outpaced revenues, Treasury Department data released yesterday showed.

Spending jumped 16 percent to \$304.3 billion, while revenue rose 13 percent to \$184.3 billion last month.

October, the first month of the federal government's fiscal year, typically runs a deficit. But the budget gap was far wider than the average analyst estimate of \$113.0 billion.

In fiscal 2012 that ended on September 30, the United States trimmed its deficit to \$1.1 trillion, or 7.0 percent of gross domestic product.

For the current fiscal year the Obama administration's budget is aimed at reducing the deficit to below \$1.0 trillion for the first time in five years.

The White House has targeted a gap of \$991 billion, or 6.1 percent of GDP.

in stricken eurozone states such as Greece and Italy, and less frequently in Spain, now grappling also with the despair of evicted home-owners.

Airlines operating in Spain, including Iberia, Iberia Express, Air Nostrum, Vueling, Spanair and easyJet cut more than 600 flights including some 250 international routes. Ryanair said no flights had been scrapped yet.

Dozens of protests by unions and activists are held across Spain, the fourth-biggest eurozone economy, which is tightening its belt as it ponders seeking a sovereign rescue.

Activists called on social networks for an evening rally outside the parliament in Madrid. The action comes as Spain's right-leaning government and Socialist opposition are discussing how to combat a surge in home-owner convictions, blamed for two suicides in just 15 days.

Neighbouring Portugal, where protesters booed visiting German Chancellor Angela Merkel on Monday when she came to support Lisbon's austerity policies, is also holding a general strike.

Protests are being called in some 40 towns and cities across the bailed-out nation, including Lisbon and Porto.

Portugal's TAP said it was grounding more than 160 flights, most of them international.

Greece, struggling to satisfy international lenders that it has cut spending sufficiently to qualify for bailout funds and to avoid default, has called a three-hour work stoppage and a rally in Athens.

Italian unions, too, are seeking a four-hour work stoppage.

The European Trade Union Confederation said it was the first time that it had appealed for a day of action that includes simultaneous strike action in four countries. Short of taking full strike action, unions and activists in other European countries say they, too, plan to support the so-called "Day of Action and Solidarity".

Union-led rallies are being called across France and in Poland, where workers decry a "social and wage-dumping" in their country.

In Germany, viewed by many in southern Europe as the paymaster behind the austerity drive, the union federation DGB has called protests across the country including in Berlin and Frankfurt.

"For now it is mostly people in southern Europe suffering from a crisis they are not responsible for. But the consequences will surely be felt in the rest of Europe," the union grouping said in a statement.

High-speed Thalys rail services between Belgium and Germany have been cancelled for the day.



JAVA -- High-rise buildings under construction rise behind a market in the capital city of Jakarta. Strong investment and domestic spending have seen Indonesia remain one of the best performers in Asia. Southeast Asia's biggest economy on November 12, 2012 announced growth of 6.2 percent in the third quarter from a year earlier

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

PEAS SLEW OWE
ERST ASEA NAY
TAKE AFTER TIE
EWES OAHIS
STOLE WERE
WAVED SENATOR
ALE OLD APO
GERMANY RAKED
TAUT IRENE
LEARN OLGA
IRK TAKEABATH
NNE ITIS IGOR
KEN ETES ARTS

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Current as of: 11/13/2012				
	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada	CAD	1.76	1.78	1.80
Britain	GBP	2.76	2.81	2.87
Switzerland	CHF	187.54	188.26	189.06
Netherlands	EUR	224.08	226.12	228.39
Sweden	SEK	25.28	26.00	26.80
Denmark	DKK	29.36	30.08	30.88
Norway	NOK	29.90	30.62	31.42
Japan (per 10,000)	JPY	222.01	224.04	226.29
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Rolling Stones tour adds New York concert

NEW YORK (AFP) - The Rolling Stones have added a concert to their 50th anniversary tour with a gig at New York's Barclays Center on December 8, the facility announced.

Barclays, a brand new arena that hosts NBA basketball team the Brooklyn Nets, will feature the Stones following their sold-out concerts in London's O2 Arena on November 25 and 29.

Tickets for the New York appearance go on sale on Monday, costing between \$113 and \$832 on www.ticketmaster.com.

After the Barclays show, the elderly rock legends will head to sold-out concerts at the Prudential Center in Newark, New Jersey, on December 13 and 15.

The shows will be the first live performances by Mick Jagger, Keith Richards, Charlie Watts and Ronnie Wood in five years.

The Stones are also set to release a repackaged greatest hits collection called "GRRR!" on November 12, featuring two new songs -- "Doom And Gloom" and "One More Shot".

Want to build your dream home next door to Obama?

CHICAGO (AFP) - Have you got a cool million or two and a burning desire to live next door to President Barack Obama? You may be in luck.

The empty lot next to Obama's Chicago home is for sale.

"We reached out to the Obamas through his curator and the Secret Service to see if he wanted to purchase it first and they declined," said @properties agent Anthony Rouches.

While it's not been formally listed, Rouches said his clients are hoping to get \$899,000 for the corner lot at 5050 South Greenwood Avenue, which they bought in March 2008 for \$675,000.

The house on the other side of the Obama home sold two years ago for \$1.4 million, which was considered to be significantly higher than the market rate.

The empty double lot is currently being maintained by the Secret Service, which has also barricaded the street to prevent anyone but residents and their guests from entering.

Obama and his family rarely spend the night there.

'Rise of the Guardians': 3D heroes romp premieres in Rome



ROME (AFP) - A cutlass-wielding Santa Claus gangs up with the Tooth Fairy and the Easter Bunny to save the world from the Boogeyman in the latest DreamWorks animation, premiered internationally in Rome on Tuesday.

"Rise of the Guardians", awarded the Vanity Fair International Award for Cinematic Excellence at the seventh edition of Rome's film festival, is a special effects 3D romp which combines dark fantasy with saccharine moral teachings.

"We took the mythologies of these superheroes and drew out their characters, the emo-

tions they stand for, coming up with a pirate-like Santa Claus with tattoos, who spreads wonder in a world of fear," director Peter Ramsey said.

The story, in which Jack Frost is called to help the other heroes in the battle against evil -- and discovers who he really is in the process -- was inspired by the books "The Guardians of Childhood" by US author William Joyce.

"It's a film based on children's dreams, but is also grounded in their reality, so it takes place in an everyday town which could be just next door. Above all we wanted to

respect the legends not ironise them," Ramsey said.

Featuring the voices of actors Alec Baldwin, Jude Law and Hugh Jackman, the film tells the tale of the day the Boogeyman, known as Pitch, wages war on the gang, turning dreams into nightmares and tearing hope out of children's hearts.

Wreaking havoc from the Easter Bunny's lair to the Tooth Fairy's kingdom, he leaves the heroes, who are the "Guardians" of imagination, increasingly weak -- sparking inferiority complexes only overcome thanks to wild-eyed child belief.

While the yetis and elves running amuck in Santa's workshop are suitably silly and the boomerang-throwing, Australian Easter Bunny is bound to be a hit with children, the characters feel one-dimensional and the plot lacks depth.

Unlike previous DreamWorks animations such as "Shrek" and "How to Train Your Dragon", there seems to be little for adult viewers -- though Guillermo del Toro, cult Mexican director and the film's executive producer, disagrees.

"The film recaptures that feeling of curiosity, joy and hope that adults once felt," he said.

"In a world where we live in constant fear of one type or another, we wanted to make something where everyone can just regress, even for a moment, and open up the doors to their imagination which they have slammed shut as adults."

'Omnishambles' declared Britain's word of the year

LONDON (AFP) - "Omnishambles" was named Britain's word of the year Tuesday after being coined by BBC TV's satirical political series "The Thick of It" to describe a badly mismanaged situation.

The word has become a synonym for British government blunders, and it was tweaked to "Romneyshambles" by Twitter users to describe US presidential candidate Mitt Romney's gaffe-strewn visit to Britain before the London Olympics.

It has been named the word of the year by the publishers of the Oxford dictionaries, which defined it as "a situation that has been comprehensively mismanaged, characterized by a string of blunders and miscalculations."

But Oxford University Press (OUP) said the decision does not mean the word will automatically take its place in all new Oxford dictionaries, explaining that it would have to "stand the test of time" before it was included.

The word beat off competition from a shortlist including "Mobot", a word describing the celebratory gesture performed by the British long-distance runner Mo Farah on winning two Olympic gold medals.

Another contender was "mummy porn", the term for the publishing phenomenon sparked by the sado-masochistic novel "Fifty Shades of Grey."

Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest



Management of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, reports that sales have been very good and encouraging as the global economy recovers and people looking to purchase vacation homes have found that Gold Coast is an outstanding investment value. Director of Sales, Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners in reality do not spend a great amount of time personally to use the villas or town homes they purchase, but are taking advantage of Gold Coast's

minutes to the best beaches and all the action, and yet offers a quiet and secluded getaway; we are very pleased by the response to our concept."

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy operate Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project and the scope of actual and planned facilities and amenities. We have spoken to countless island visitors to find



rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community where the value of properties has only increased over time. It is only

out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."

Input from frequent vacationers who have dreamed of their own home in Aruba contributed to the realization of Gold Coast Aruba which when complete will be a community of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional community pool areas. The Clubhouse is about to start construction and will offer to the community homeowners and visitors 2 tennis courts, full service spa and fitness center as well as a stunning pool area and is expected to be complete by early 2013. It will also house a restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only a few short years ago, are already enjoying a nearly 50% appreciation on their investment, particularly those taking advantage of the on site management's rental services program. There is always a great demand for Aruba and facilities such as those at Gold Coast, make it easy for some owners to see a valuable return on their investment.

The design of the residences and public areas is open, airy and spacious, taking full advantage of the island environment, with quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options allowing buyers to individualize their homes. An elegant and chic furniture package is available or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property; not the least is the future value of the investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast management have inaugurated a number of in-house services and have recently become affiliated Interval International, the world's largest network of vacation ownership properties which provides an unlimited international pool of investors to tap for ownership and rental prospects. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination is also available through the Interval International affiliation. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, child care, catering services, car rental through its partnership with AVIS car rental are also available as well as pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can also be arranged through their property management department. Personnel are also available to assist in arranging restaurant reservations and island activities.

Visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.

Spend a fun evening with friends at Barney's



A place where you feel like you are with friends

A few months ago, Palm Beach welcomed a cozy new place that offers good food, great prices and a uniquely warm, welcoming ambiance that makes patrons feel as if they are visiting with friends rather than just eating out. Even the name, "Barney's", which was inspired by Barney Rubble of the Flintstones, is an expression of the good humor of its owners and your hosts, Ron and Elina.

Ron and Elina have a very congenial division of labor; he enjoys being bartender and playing around with his "cocktail of the day" while she sees to it that everyone is well satisfied with their meal. Chef Jan is in the kitchen doing his magic; patrons praise their spicy Firecracker Shrimp appetizer and mushrooms stuffed with escargot, priced at \$9.50 and \$8.50, or the Smoked Trout Fillet for a real gourmet treat.



Thumbs up for Firecracker Shrimp

They are particularly popular for their "Build Your Own Barney Burger" using specially imported organic beef from Holland, guaranteed to have been raised without steroids or antibiotics, only \$9.50 with fries and coleslaw. Patrons are handed a special hamburger checklist, which features a full menu of toppings, sauces and cheeses to customize your order to create the ideal burger. One can also opt for a

second or third hamburger patty for a very nominal cost.

High end items on the menu, such as the Seafood Pasta, are only \$20.50. They also have a kid's menu with favorites such as a Kid's Burger, chicken fingers and Mac & Cheese; most items are only \$4. One regular described the place as particularly "kid-friendly," with Elina, a mother herself, having devised a number of methods to keep young ones entertained. The menu has a range to please patrons who are in the mood for something simple while other can be indulgent gourmands.

Tuesday through Saturday evenings they have specialty nights at bargain rates. Tuesday is Schnitzel Night, with a choice of chicken or pork schnitzel prepared any of five ways, a platter with salad and side dish is \$17.50. Wednesday is "All you can eat

grouper, prepared any of five ways, with veggies and side dish, \$19.50. Thursday they do it again with unlimited ribs done three ways for \$17.50 with salad, slaw and fries, Saturday means endless rib eye steak with salad and fries for \$19.50. Friday

evening ends the work week with Karaoke Night, a convivial and fun evening when islanders kick back and let loose their inner rock star.

Barney's is located just next to the huge supermarket on the Palm Beach/Noord road, not far from the gas station. They are open from 5:00 to 11:00 PM and closed on Mondays. Check out their full menu at <http://www.barneysaruba.com> or call 586-5420 for reservations and directions.

SPORTS

Watch out Tiger, Jack - Rory's hungry for more



SINGAPORE (AFP) - Two Major titles, world number one, money titles on both sides of the Atlantic, and still only 23 -- but as Rory McIlroy made crystal clear this weekend, he's just getting started.

The tousle-haired, approachable Northern Irishman has ambitions way beyond his humble roots in Holywood, a port town near Belfast, with an eye on golf's most coveted records.

After clinching a European Tour-PGA Tour money race double in Singapore, McIlroy said his game was still a work in progress, and set his sights on Colin Montgomerie's eight European merit wins, and even Jack Nicklaus's 18 Majors.

"Monty (Montgomerie) won eight order of merits in his prime, and I have won one so there is plenty of ground to make up," he said, before jetting off to this week's Hong Kong Open.

"Also, Jack Nicklaus won 18 Majors and I now have my name on two, so targeting the Majors will still be my main focus next season."

McIlroy has already matched Tiger Woods by winning two Majors before his 24th birthday, and has his eye on a career Grand Slam. On Sunday, he became only the second man after Luke Donald to win both the European and PGA money titles.

"Major, (world) number one, and then the money list, for sure," he said, when asked to rank this season's achievements.

McIlroy's boyish enthusiasm makes him an unlikely superstar -- until you spot his tennis player girlfriend Caroline Wozniacki in the crowd, or consider his expected, multi-million dollar endorsement by Nike.

His galleries at the Barclays Singapore Open were not quite as bulging or fervent as the crowds that

tracked Woods at last month's CIMB Classic in Malaysia, suggesting his profile has some way to rise.

But his golf is a match for Woods, 36 -- the most recent of whose 14 Major titles came in 2008 -- as witnessed, to some extent, by his one-shot win in their "Duel at Jinsha Lake" exhibition in China.

As the big attraction in Singapore, McIlroy endured a wave of storm delays, early starts and a troublesome cold to stay in touch with the leaders, and then stepped up a gear with a classy final round of six-under 65.

On his last hole, the par-five 18th, he elicited roars from the packed crowd by rolling in a 35-foot eagle putt to place outright third, enough to confirm him as Europe's biggest prize money-winner this year.

Despite the achievement, and his second consecutive top-three finish, McIlroy cut a slightly deflated figure after coming just a few strokes from his fifth European Tour win.

"My biggest goal this week was to try to win the Singapore Open and I just came up a little bit short," he said.

McIlroy will defend his title at the Hong Kong Open, starting on Thursday, before the season-ending World Tour Championship in Dubai. Then comes the off-season, and a chance to work on his game.

"I've got more shots, I'm more experienced, a bit more consistent," he said of his development this year, indicating that steady improvement was more important than a regular flow of big wins.

"(I'll) keep working on different aspects of the game, and keep adding a shot here and there in terms of different shots," McIlroy said.

"I feel like I've got a lot more comfortable hitting the ball left to right this year which has made a huge difference to the right-hand pin positions, and just keep trying to improve on any little thing you can."

"It's been nice that year after year my results have improved and I would like to keep that going. But if I feel like I'm a better golfer next year than I am this year, and so on, that's how I want to feel."



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Portugal coach defends Ronaldo absence, Gabon trip

Libreville (AFP) - Portugal coach Paulo Bento has defended the absence of the side's star turn Cristiano Ronaldo as well as the financial aspect of their friendly against Gabon.

Bento, speaking in Libreville on the eve of Wednesday's game, railed at a suggestion Ronaldo's no-show may not be for entirely sporting reasons despite the Real Madrid star having picked up a nasty gash to his head in a game at the weekend.

"If you don't tell me who is suspecting Ronaldo I can't reply to you because I can't imagine that anyone is questioning him," Bento replied to the journalist who posed the question.

"You've seen his (Ronaldo's) eye and the medical report. He wasn't able to travel."

Turning to criticism of Portugal's decision to visit Libreville Bento said: "We are here on serious business. Don't make any mistake - this game has a sporting aspect and an economic aspect, as is the case with big sides."

He continued: "Portugal were invited to play in Gabon due to everything that the Portuguese players have

achieved over the years, for having made it to the major finals and for having played well in the big competitions.

"Spain are in Panama, Argentina are in Saudi Arabia...this game too is based on commercial, financial logic."

The financial carrot Gabon used to entice Portugal, who reached the Euro 2012 semi-finals but have suffered a slump in form since and were held to a 1-1 draw at home by minnows Northern Ireland in their World Cup qualifier last month, to Libreville has not been made public.

The Portuguese are following in the footsteps of Brazil, the five-time world champions and 2014 World Cup hosts who came to Gabon to add lustre to the inauguration of the Stade l'Amitie which was used for the final of the 2012 Africa Cup of Nations which Gabon co-hosted with Equatorial Guinea.

Ronaldo's absence meanwhile is mirrored on the Gabonese side by the withdrawal of their star player, Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, who scored his eighth goal of the season for Saint Etienne in Ligue 1 at the weekend.

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Lakers' Howard thinks D'Antoni good fit

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Los Angeles Lakers big man Dwight Howard said he was "excited" by the prospect of working with Mike D'Antoni, who was named as the club's new head coach in a surprise announcement Monday morning.

The move came after widespread reports that Hall of Fame coach Phil Jackson - who guided the Lakers to five NBA titles before retiring in 2011, was front-runner for the job.

Howard said he knew Lakers fans were keen to see Jackson return. It would have been hard not to after the chants of "We want Phil" that rang out at two Lakers games since head coach Mike

Brown was sacked on Friday.

"I really didn't know what was going to happen, besides what I heard at the game, 'We want Phil,'" Howard said Monday, after D'Antoni's hiring was announced.

"I'm excited for D'Antoni," he added. "I think it will be good for us."

But the decision didn't come without drama.

Jackson himself said in a statement quoted by the Los Angeles Times that after preliminary talks with Lakers executives on Saturday he thought he had until Monday to render his decision.

Instead, he said, general manager Mitch Kupchak phoned him around midnight on Sunday night to tell him D'Antoni had been hired.

"The decision is of course theirs to make," Jackson said. "I am gratified by the groundswell of support from the Laker fans who encouraged my return and it is the principal reason why I considered the possibility."

D'Antoni, who recently underwent knee surgery, was expected to be formally introduced as coach this week.

Kobe Bryant and Steve Nash have both supported the appointment, according to the Lakers' website on Monday, and other players around the league who have played for D'Antoni praised the coach.

Rockets point guard Jeremy Lin, whose breakthrough came last season in New York before the Knicks parted ways with D'Antoni, told reporters in Houston that D'Antoni made his career.

"He gave me confidence in running the offense," Lin said. "He gives his players the confidence and freedom to go out and play to the best of their abilities. That's what he did for me last year."

Sakic, Sundin, Bure, Oates enter Hall of Fame



L-R) Mats Sundin, Joe Sakic, Adam Oates and Pavel Bure at the Hockey Hall of Fame

TORONTO (AFP) - Russian star Pavel Bure, Swedish icon Mats Sundin and Canadians Joe Sakic and Adam Oates were inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame late Monday.

Sakic was one of the few players who spent his entire illustrious NHL career with one franchise.

A 13-time All-Star, Sakic was a first-round draft pick of the Quebec Nordiques in 1987, and stuck with them eight years later when they moved to Colorado and were renamed the Avalanche.

Sakic played a key role in the Avalanche's Stanley Cup titles in 1996 and 2001, and after 20 seasons retired as the club's all-time leader with

625 goals and 1,016 assists.

In 2001 Sakic won the Hart Trophy as the league's most valuable player and led Canada to Olympic gold in Salt Lake City in 2002.

"I had a chance to play 20 years, got to lift the Stanley Cup twice and was able to play for my country and win a gold medal," Sakic said. "But this is the greatest honor I've ever received."

Sundin, who played with Sakic his first four years in the NHL, spent 13 seasons with the Maple Leafs and still holds Toronto club records for most points, goals, power-play goals, shorthanded goals, game-winning goals and overtime goals.

Sundin, a 2006 Olympic

gold medal-winner, totaled 1,349 points in 1,346 NHL games. He scored 564 goals and had 785 assists.

Bure, nicknamed the "Russian Rocket," averaged 36.7 goals per season in 12 NHL campaigns and twice reached the 60-goal plateau.

Oates, who just several hours prior to his Hall-of-Fame bid was named the head coach of the Washington Capitals, ranks sixth all-time in NHL history with 1,079 assists and 16th with 1,420 points. He played 1,337 career games with Detroit, St. Louis, Boston, Washington, Philadelphia, Anaheim and Edmonton.

The joy of the ceremony was tempered by the lockout that has idled the league.

The contract dispute between NHL team owners and players has seen regular season games cancelled through November 30 along with the Winter Classic outdoor game that was set for New Year's Day.



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Dettori tests positive at Longchamp - faces inquiry



LONDON (AFP) - Frankie Dettori, one of the outstanding jockeys of his generation, failed a drugs test when riding at Longchamp in France in September, his lawyer announced on Tuesday.

The legendary Italian rider's positive result will be the subject of a hearing conducted by France Galop, French racing's governing body, in Paris next week.

Dettori's solicitor, Christopher Stewart-Moore, in a statement to the British Press Association, reported: "On behalf of Frankie Dettori I can confirm that, as a consequence of a positive test at Longchamp on September 16, 2012, he will be the subject of an inquiry by the Medical Committee of France Galop next week.

"In compliance with, and out of respect for, the regula-

tions of France Galop, he will not be commenting further until the France Galop procedures have been completed."

No details of the substance in question were forthcoming with France Galop telling AFP they would be making no comment "for the time being".

The 41-year-old Dettori had four rides at the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe trials meeting on September 16.

He rode Joshua Tree to finish third in the Prix Foy, Sarah Lynx who trailed home last in the Prix Vermeille, then Farhh who was beaten a head in the Prix du Moulin and Willing Foe, another Godolphin charge, who came in third in the Prix Gladiateur.

Wednesday's news comes three weeks after Dettori's split with Sheikh Mohammed's Godolphin opera-

tion after an 18-year association.

This is not the first time the celebrated horseman, who in 1996 made racing history when riding all seven winners at Ascot, has hit the headlines for the wrong reasons.

In 1993 he was stopped by police on London's Oxford Street with a small quantity of cocaine in his car.

He escaped with a caution but the incident cost him a lucrative two-year contract to ride in Hong Kong.

"It was the kick up the backside I needed," he admitted afterwards.

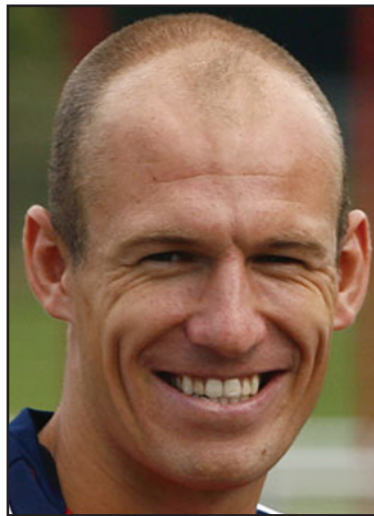
"I was going off the rails. It was too much too young - too much success, too much money, too much partying. I'd be late in the mornings. I didn't do what I was told. I was naughty.

"But when you lose everything, your survival instincts take over. I stopped being lazy. I made an effort and started to work with my talent."

Dettori, married with five children, went on to scale the heights of his profession.

He has won all five English classics, including the Epsom Derby on Authorized in 2007, and the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, Europe's most prestigious race, twice on Lammtarra in 2005 and Marienbard seven years later.

German, Holland rivalry not so fierce, says Robben



AMSTERDAM (AFP) - Holland's Arjen Robben has said the rivalry between Netherlands and Germany is no longer as fierce as it was, but while hate is no longer a factor, both teams aim to get one over their neighbours.

With Holland to host Germany on Wednesday in a friendly at Amsterdam Arena, tensions have run high in the past when the European powerhouses have clashed on the pitch.

Ever since World War II, the Dutch and Germans have been involved in some bad-tempered clashes, especially the 1974 World Cup final and the infamous Euro 1988 semi-final which saw both Rudi Voeller and Frank Rijkaard sent off.

"It's still an important and very special game," Bayern Munich star Robben told German daily Bild.

"But the hatred and aggressiveness from previous years is no longer there.

"The relationship between

Netherlands and Germany is pretty good these days.

"It's no longer as emotional as it was and the atmosphere between the two countries is more relaxed.

"It will be a good game for us, but it is also a really good test to see how far we are at the moment. This is very important for us."

Germany are lacking eight injured first-choice players, but Robben dismissed any talk of revenge after the Germans enjoyed a 2-1 win over the Dutch in the group stages of Euro 2012 after a 3-0 hammering of Holland in last November's friendly.

"No, I do not see it as revenge," he told SID, an AFP subsidiary.

"These are two brand new teams, because the Germans are missing a lot of players and we have new faces.

"This is a very different game and you can't compare a European Championship match to a friendly."

Dutch midfielder Rafael van der Vaart has bet his Hamburg team-mate and Germany's Rene Adler the loser of Wednesday's match must train in the other team's national shirt, but Robben says he has made no similar bet with his Bayern colleagues.

"No, we have so many games at Bayern that we are too busy for that," he said.

"I haven't got any time there to talk about the internationals."



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